

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A relay apparatus for setting a packet relay policy for a network having a plurality of interconnected relay nodes to execute the packet relay process according to the set policy, comprising:

a packet transmitter/receiver for executing the process of transmitting and receiving packets to and from said network;

a session establishing unit for receiving a message, through said packet transmitter/receiver from a first communication terminal connected to said network, requesting to establish a session between said first communication terminal and a second communication terminal connected to said network and establishing a session between said first communication terminal and said second communication terminal; and

a policy generating unit for generating a policy for the relay process of said relay nodes to transmit and receive packets between said first communication terminal and said second communication terminal in accordance with the session established by said session establishing unit,

wherein said policy generating unit holds said message requesting to establish said session, and upon detection of establishment of a session between said first communication terminal and said second communication terminal by said session establishing unit, generates said policy based on said message held.

2. A relay apparatus according to Claim 1,
further comprising:

a corresponding relay node storage unit for holding, in correspondence with each other, the address of said first communication terminal and the address of a relay node for connecting said first communication terminal to said network; and

a policy distribution unit for producing a message containing the policy generated by said policy generating unit and transmitting said message containing said policy through said IP packet transmitter/receiver to the relay node stored in correspondence with said first communication terminal by said corresponding relay node.

3. A relay apparatus according to Claim 2,
wherein the policy generated by said policy generating unit determines the order of priority of transfer of the packets transmitted and received between said first communication terminal and said second communication terminal.